

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Congress of the Philippines
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **10359**



Introduced by **Rep. Mary Mitzi Cajayon-Uy**

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE BLOOD CENTER AND REGIONAL BLOOD CENTERS AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

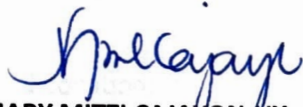
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Blood is the body's life-sustaining fluid as it is indispensable to the transportation of oxygen and other nutrients to keep the human body alive and functioning.

Republic Act No. 7719 or the National Blood Services Act of 1994 provides that blood centers shall be established in every province and city nationwide. Accordingly, the Philippine Blood Center (PBC) was established, a government blood bank under the National Voluntary Blood Services Program (NVBSP) of the Department of Health (DOH).

This bill aims to institutionalize the PBC as the repository and administrator of the NVBSP. Its functions shall include such as but not limited to, overseeing the collection, testing, processing, storage, and distribution of blood and blood components. Moreover, this bill shall empower regional DOH offices to create, operate, and maintain their own Regional Blood Centers (RBC).

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


REP. MARY MITZI CAJAYON-UY
2nd District, Caloocan City

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**INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE BLOOD CENTER AND REGIONAL BLOOD CENTERS AND
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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

Section 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Blood Center Act."

Section. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Towards this end, the State shall establish a Philippine Blood Center which will become the national and central hub of blood services in the country, which shall oversee the collection, testing, processing, storage, and distribution of blood and blood components. Regional blood centers shall likewise be established to bring the services closer to our people.

Section 3. The Philippine Blood Center. - There shall be established a Philippine Blood Center under the direct control and supervision of the Department of Health (DOH). The Philippine Blood Center shall be the national blood center of the Philippines.

Section 4. Purposes and Objectives. - The Philippine Blood Center, as the premier blood service facility of the Philippines, will have the capability to:

- a. Centrally recruit and screen blood donors and promote blood donation;
- b. Centrally collect, test for transfusion-transmissible infections, process, store, issue, and transport blood and blood components for transfusion;
- c. Perform special immunohematologic tests;
- d. Provide information, educate, and counsel on transfusion-transmissible infections;
- e. Create a database for blood donors in accordance with Republic Act No. 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012;

- f. Conduct quality assurance and surveillance;
- g. Establish a national hemovigilance system;
- h. Conduct training and research in blood banking and related technologies and fields as basis for national policy-making;
- i. Capacitate regional blood centers;
- j. Administer to the resource stratification for national blood services in collaboration with regional blood centers; and
- k. Other functions assigned by the DOH.

Section 5. Regional Blood Centers. - A regional blood center shall be established in each region of the Philippines which shall be under the direct control and supervision of the Philippine Blood Center. The regional blood centers shall be the local region hub for regional blood services.

Section 6. Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern. - The DOH will craft staffing standards and create new positions as necessary to ensure the appropriate human resources for the operation of the Philippine Blood Center and Regional Blood Centers subject to the approval of the Civil Service Commission and the Department of Budget and Management.

Section 7. Directors. - The Philippine Blood Center and the Regional Blood Centers shall be led by a Director appointed by the President of the Philippines, upon recommendation by the Secretary of Health.

Section 8. Program for Indigents. - The DOH shall ensure that the Philippine Blood Center shall adopt and enforce a program for indigents needing blood and blood components in accordance with the implementing guidelines on the classification of patients and on availing of the Medical Social Services in Government Hospitals.

Section 9. Tax Exemptions and other Privileges. - The provision of any general or special law to the contrary notwithstanding, all donations, grants, contributions, gifts or endowments received by the Philippine Blood Center and the Regional Blood Centers pursuant hereto, shall be exempt from income, gift and all other kinds of taxes, and shall be further considered as allowable deductions from the gross income of the donor, in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

Section 10. Establishment of a Trust Fund. - A trust fund shall be established out of the retained income of the PBC and RBC from collected blood service fees. The trust fund shall be used for the operations of the Philippine Blood Center and the Regional Blood Centers.

Section 11. Annual Report. - The Philippine Blood Center shall submit an annual report to the President of the Philippines, the Department of Health, the Senate Committee on Health and Demography and the House Committee on Health, on its activities, accomplishments and recommendations to better address and improve the safe supply of blood in the Philippines.

Section 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Department of Health in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management, shall promulgate such rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days from its effectivity.

Section 13. Appropriations. - The amount needed for the initial implementation of this Act, including maintenance and other operating expenses of the Philippine Blood Center shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the DOH. For the succeeding years, the amount allocated for the Philippine Blood Center in the DOH budget shall be based on its strategic plan, in coordination with other stakeholders.

Section 14. Separability Clause - If any portion or provision of the Act is declared void or unconstitutional, the remaining portions or provisions hereof shall not be affected by such declaration.

Section 15. Repealing Clause - All laws, acts, executive orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 16. Effectivity - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,